GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2831
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
INDIAN WORKERS TRAVELLING ABROAD
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Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details fo the Indian workers travelling abroad during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether a large number of such persons have gone to foreign countries without any valid visa and completing all the formalities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance rendered/proposed to be rendered to such persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): An emigrant Indian worker holding (ECR) category passport and going for employment in any of the ECR country has to seek emigration clearance under the Emigration Act, 1983, from the offices of Protectors of Emigrants (POEs) under the administrative control of this Ministry. A statement containing number of emigrant workers granted emigration clearance by the POE offices during the years 2006 and 2007 is given in Annexure.

(b) to (d): Cases of workers going abroad on visit/transit visas and taking up employment in that country have come to the notice of this Ministry and Indian Missions from time to time. Whenever such instances are reported, the Missions take up the matter with the local government there to redress the grievances of the workers and extends all help for repatriation of such workers back to India.

Gulf Countries from time to time declare Amnesty for illegal migrants either to regularize their stay or leave the country without penalty. On declaration of such Amnesty the Indian Missions take up the matter with local authorities either for regularizing the stay of such workers or issue of emergency certificates for their deportation back to India. This Ministry coordinates with the Ministries of Home Affairs and Civil Aviation for ensuring their safe passage back to India.